

131

EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

OCI #0729/68
14 June 1968

Rumania and North Vietnam Sign New Agreements

Three bilateral trade-and-aid agreements were signed in Bucharest on 12 June during the 8-13 June visit to Rumania of North Vietnamese Vice Premier Le Than Nghi. The agreements provide for: 1) supplementary non-reimbursable economic and military aid for 1968; 2) non-reimbursable economic and military aid for 1969; and, 3) a trade and payments accord for 1969.

The Rumanian press noted that the agreements followed talks which took place in an "atmosphere of warm friendship," but the US Embassy reported that press treatment of the visit, as last year, was in low key. Press articles revealed nothing specific regarding the nature of Rumanian aid to Hanoi. The general level of Bucharest's aid, however, seems to be increasing, judging by both the supplementary accord and rising Rumanian exports to the DRV.

The agreements are consistent with Rumania's practice of providing limited support to Hanoi, but the timing of the new agreements--just before the arrival in Washington of Deputy Premier Birladeanu--will make this visit a more sensitive political and diplomatic event.

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North Koreans Feature Pueblo Incident at Poznan Fair

The US is weighing the advisability of a strong protest to the Polish Foreign Ministry against a North Korean propaganda display featuring the Pueblo incident at the current Poznan International Trade Fair. USIA has stated that if the Poles "cannot guarantee that all exhibitors refrain from political propaganda, we may be compelled to review our participation." The State Department agrees that the US should close its exhibit if the offensive Korean display is not removed by COB 14 June.

The US consul in Poznan pointed out on 11 June to embarrassed Fair officials that the display violated their own rules against political propaganda. Later in the day Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Olechowski told the US charge in Warsaw that he would speak to Foreign Trade Minister Trampczynski, and added that "we always have troubles with North Korea; don't worry, we will take care of it."

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-2-

The North Korean exhibit is dominated by a large photo of Kim Il Sung, flanked by photos of the captain of the Pueblo signing a document and of crew members marching with hands behind their heads. About six smaller photos show alleged incidents at the 39th parallel as far back as the Korean War. An English language tape accusing the US of imperialism and giving the North Korean version of the Pueblo incident is also featured.

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Bulgaria Bans its Opera Singers From Macedonian Opera

The Bulgarian Embassy has barred ten Bulgarian opera singers from rehearsals of their roles in "Emperor Samuilo," due to open shortly in Skoplje, the capital of the Yugoslav republic of Macedonia.

While numerous Bulgarian singers have performed for several years at Skoplje and "Samuilo" has been in rehearsal for some time, Bulgarian officials have banned their countrymen from the performance because it allegedly does harm to Bulgarian national feelings--the Emperor was Bulgarian, not Macedonian as portrayed in the opera. Skoplje officials have announced their determination to stage the opera using their own singers, and opening night will take place next month as scheduled.

This latest tiff over the Macedonian problem is another in the long and growing list of petty incidents between Belgrade and Sofia over Macedonia, and illustrates the sensitivities on both sides to the issue. The official action of the Bulgarian Embassy will probably escalate the feud which is usually fought in cultural circles.

Israel's Chief Rabbi to Visit Rumania

Israel's chief rabbi, Yitzhak Nissim, is slated to leave Jerusalem on 26 June for a 4-day visit to Bucharest. According to an 11 June Reuter's release from Jerusalem, he will be the guest of Rumanian chief rabbi Rosen and will participate in celebrations marking Rosen's accession to office.

Nissim will be the first Israeli chief rabbi to visit a Communist country. Approval of the visit by the Rumanian regime in part underscores the regime's recent effort to depict itself as "democratic" and "humanistic." The visit also reflects the breadth of Bucharest's expanding relations

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-3-

with Tel Aviv. Rumania was the only Eastern European country to maintain diplomatic ties with Israel following last summer's Arab-Israeli war.

The timing of the announcement of the impending visit possibly also reflected the fine hand of the balance-minded Rumanians, whose Acting Foreign Minister concluded three days of talks in Cairo on the same day.

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Polish Premier Concludes Danish Visit

Premier Cyrankiewicz returned to Warsaw on 13 June after a three-day visit to Denmark which appeared routine and devoid of policy departures by either side. An expected communiqué stressing further development of bilateral relations has not yet been made public. Cyrankiewicz's visit was in return for former Danish Premier Krag's trip to Poland 17 months ago.

International topics covered in the first day of talks included the Vietnam war, the Middle East situation, disarmament, and especially European security and Germany. Polish press commentary alluded to the working level Polish-Danish talks on European security which were begun last fall, and called Cyrankiewicz's visit a continuation of this dialogue. Danish Premier Baunsgaard agreed that this should continue. Expanded trade and cultural relations rounded out the bilateral aspects of the talks.

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Soviets Are Afraid of "Virginia Woolf"

Soviet officials strongly objected to the inclusion of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" in the recent tour of the Soviet Union by Belgrade's "Studio 212."

[redacted] the Soviets reluctantly permitted the work to be performed only after the Yugoslavs threatened to cancel the whole tour if the Albee work were deleted. "Virginia Woolf" was enthusiastically received by audiences in both Leningrad and Moscow.

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